9.

AN ACCOUNT OF AN ATTEMPT

Made upon the

Perſon of Mr. Arnold,

ONE OF

His MAJESTIES Juſtices of the Peace

FOR THE

County of Monmouth.

IN

Bell-Yard, near *Temple-Bar*; upon *Thurſday*, the Fifteenth of *April*, between *Nine* & *Ten* a Clock at Night.

NOt to trouble the *Reader* with Prefaces, which are ſo much Exploded by the Wits of the Age, I cannot but take Notice of an Excellent Obſervation made by a Worthy and Ingenious Divine of the Church of *England*; who Diſcourſing concerning *Papiſts*, expreſſes himſelf thus: *I doubt not, but* Papiſts *are made like other Men; Nature hath not generally given them ſuch Savage Diſpoſitions, but their Religion hath made them ſo: I am loth to ſay it, and yet I am confident 'tis very True, That many* Papiſts *would have been Excellent Perſons, and very Good Men, if their Religion had not bind'red them, if*

the Doctrines and Principles of their Church had not perverted and ſpoyled their Natural Diſpoſitions. And in relating ſome of their Meritorious Acts of Treaſon and Murther, deſigned by the *Papiſts*, and applauded by ſome of that Party, the ſame Excellent Perſon ſpeaks thus: *Good God! That any thing that is called* Religion, *ſhould ſo perfectly ſtrip Men of all Humanity, and transform the Mild and Gentle Race of Mankind, into ſuch Wolves and Tygers.* And this is the Exact Character of a *Papiſt*; and leaſt we ſhould forget what they are, they dayly give us freſh Occaſions to ſatisfie us, that they are ſtill the ſame Men, and that no Favour nor Kindneſs on our Parts, can alter their curſed Natures, nor ſecure us from their Deſigning the utter Deſtruction of any that dare appear againſt their Villanous Contrivances: And this we have a new Inſtance of, in the following brief Account, as it is related by the Inhabitants and Neighbours in and near the Place where it was Acted.

Upon *Thurſday* the *Fifteenth* of this inſtant *April*, *John Arnold*, Eſq; one of his Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the County of *Monmouth*, was at a Tavern with ſome Perſons of Honor, near *Temple-Bar*; and going from thence he had occaſion to paſs through a Place called *Bell-Yard*, near *Chancery-Lane*, between Nine and Ten a Clock the ſame Evening, toward his Lodging in *Fleet-Street*; as he was going along, he obſerved Two or Three Perſons to follow him, which he ſuppoſed to be his own Servants; but coming nigh a little Lane, called *Jack-a-Napes Lane*, one of theſe Perſons ſtept before him, and threw a Cloak over his Head; and dragging him a little out of the way, threw him down; and inſtantly Three Men fell upon him, and with their Swords or Daggers, endeavoured to Murder him, ſtabing him in the Head, Breſt, and Arm, and run him quite through the Side; but finding their Weapons met with ſome Oppoſition, they ſwore *Dam 'um, he wore privat Armour, or a Coat of Mail*, or words to that purpoſe; whereupon one ſaid, *God Dam the Dog, Cut his Throat*, or to that effect, which one of them Immediatly endeavored to do, kneeling down upon him, and cutting him from one Ear to the other, and likewiſe

up

up to his mouth in a moſt Horrid manner, yet happily miſſed his Wind-Pipe; one of the Villains ſaid, Dam me ye Dog, now Pray for the Soul of Captain *Evans*. This *Evans* it ſeems being a Jeſuit, who was lately Executed for High Treaſon in the County of *Glamorgan* in *Wales*, and who ſomtime before his Apprehenſion had threatned to Piſtol the ſaid Mr. *Arnold*; One of them attempting to give another Wound to Mr. *Arnold*, ſtruck one of his Companions into the Leg, which made him ſwear *God Dam me, you have Wounded me*; While they are proceeding in their bloody Purpoſe to diſpatch him, it happened that a Gentleman having occaſion to ſend his Servant out, and the Villany being Acted very near his Door, the glance of the Candle it is thought affrighted them, for they Immediatly fled, and Mr. *Arnold* Crying out *Murder*, ſeveral of the Neighbors came in and found him there weltring in his *own* Blood, who deſired they would help him to his Lodging, which was at the Poſt-Houſe in *Fleetſtreet*, where he now remains.

He hath received no leſs than Seven Wounds from the Hands of theſe Curſed Villains: One in the Throat, one in the Head, two in the Arm, two in the Breaſt, and one in the Side; and yet it is very much hoped that through Gods Aſſiſtance he may eſcape with his Life, though no queſtion the ſame Fate was deſigned for him as was for that Worthy and never to be forgottenGentleman Sir *Edmundbury-Godfrey*.

One of his Majeſties Juſtices of Peace, who Lives near that Place, having an Account of this horrid Fact, was pleaſed to take a particular Information of all Circumſtances, and humbly preſented it to His Majeſty, who was extreamly concerned at this Villanous Attempt; and his Majeſty was further Graciouſly pleaſed to order one of his own Chyrurgeons to Viſit Mr. *Arnold*: and upon hearing the whole matter in Council, His Majeſty was Graciouſly pleaſed to Order, that the Lord Mayor of *London*, and the Juſtices of Peace of *Middleſex*, and City of *Weſtminſter*, do cauſe diligent ſearch to be forthwith made within their ſeveral Jurisdictions for the ſaid Perſons, or any of them, or any that did incite, incourage,

or

or ſet them on to make this Attempt: And for an Encouragement, his Majeſty is pleaſed to promiſe an Hundred Pound to any who ſhall Diſcover or Apprehend any one of the ſaid three Perſons, or any who did incite them thereto; and if any of the three Perſons, ſhall Diſcover his Accomplices, His Majeſty is Graciouſly pleaſed to promiſe him his Pardon for the ſame, beſides the ſaid Reward.

John Arnold Eſq; is known to be a very good Proteſtant, and a ſtrong Oppoſer of the Plots and Deſigns of the *Papiſts*, and has been likewiſe very Inſtrumental in the Diſcovery of the late horrid Conſpiracy; and we may therefore Reaſonally ſuppoſe he was marked out for Popiſh Vengeance, and that this curſed Attempt came from their Hands, as their words at parting ſeem very much to confirm, bidding him Pray for the Soul of Captain *Evans*, who was lately, Legally Condemned, and Executed as a *Jeſuit*; ſo that it ſeems *Papiſts* can take up any ſhapes, (and both Captains and Coblers) as well as Act the greateſt Crimes for advancing the *Catholick* Cauſe.

The occaſion of Mr. *Arnold*'s being in *London*, was (as hath been often Publiſhed) about an Accuſation of one Maſter *Herbert* in *Monmouth-ſhire*, concerning ſome Tranſactions in that Country; and Mr. *Arnold* had now brought ſeveral Witneſſes from thence, to make good the Accuſation, and the Cauſe was ordered to be heard the very next Day, that is the *Sixteenth* Inſtant before his Majeſty in Council: Now by Reaſon of ſome Words uttered by Mr. *Herbert*, a while before, and other Circumſtances: Mr. *Herbert* was ordered to be taken into Cuſtody; and we hear that notwithſtanding this misfortune upon Mr. *Arnold*, there will be a hearing of the Cauſe by Council of both ſides at the time appointed.

In the mean time let all good Proteſtants beſeech Almighty God to Diſcover and bring to Juſtice, theſe, and all other our Curſed, Popiſh Adverſaries, who deſign the Deſtruction of his Majeſty and his Proteſtant Subjects, and the overthrow of our Religion and Government Eſtabliſhed, and to this let all the People ſay, *Amen.*

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